Vol. VIII. Numb. 43

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the threatening Season, the News from Flanders, *the Insurrections in* France, *Methods to increase them, to the Overthrow of* Lewis *the XIVth's Tyranny, the Increase of our Trade, and the Imployment of our own Poor and the* Palatines *that are lately come over.*

From Saturday, July 2. to Wednesday, July 6. 1709.

Obs. WHAT News from *London* now, *Roger?*

Country-m. All the Discourse there, Master, is about the Wetness of the Season, the Decay of Trade, the Want of Money, the Multitude of Poor, and the coming over of so many *Palatines*, as an additional Charge upon us.

Obs. 'Tis the common Frailty of Mankind, to be murmuring and discontented at Calamities, *Roger*, rather than to reform, in order to remove or prevent them. The Season, I must own, is truly threatening, both as to the Fruits of the Ground, and the Progress of the Campaign. However, we cannot but say, that God is just: Our own Consciences condemn us, and much more must he. If Nations will not fast for publick Sins, he can bring them to fast for Want of Bread: If they will rely upon their own Council, Courage, and Conduct, and neglect seeking his Assistance, who is the Lord of Hosts, he can make the Stars in their Courses to fight against them, and let them know, that as the Race is not to the Swift, the Battel is not to the Strong.

Country-m. I am truly sorry, Master, that while we have so much Reason to apprehend national Judgments, there should be so little Appearance of national Reformation; and that People should be more sensible of the Curses upon the Basket and the Store, in the City and in the Field, in their going out and coming in, and in all that they set their Hand to do, than they are of the Disobedience to God, which brings on such Judgments, as we are inform'd in the 28th of *Deuteronomy*.

Obs. Indeed, *Roger*, if those People, who are so apt to flatter themselves with Success to our Arms, would consider what we deserve, they might find Ground rather to expect, that as we go out against our Enemies one Way, we should flee before them seven. than to hear of new Victories, especially considering what unsuitable Returns we have generally made to Heaven for our old ones; but since the *French* King and his People seem to be more ripe for Judgment, than we are for Mercy, and that he obstinately persists in his Tyranny and Persecution, we have Reason to hope, that God will bring down that haughty Tyrant, for his own Name's Sake, tho' not for ours. But pray what do you hear of the Campaign? How do Affairs go in *Flanders?*

Country-m. The last Mails say, Master, we have open'd our Trenches before *Tournay* with good Success; that the *French* are in no Condition to relieve it, but prepare to give us a Diversion as well as they can, the Elector of *Bavaria* being to command a separate Army in *Brabant* of 20000 Men, as they say; but then, on the other Hand, the People of the *Cevennes* and *Vivarets* have taken Arms again, and are like to give the *French* a Diversion on that Side.

Obs. We may come to hear more of that, *Roger*, when once the Season will allow the Duke of *Savoy* to enter *France*; for 'tis impossible that People, who find themselves oppress'd in Person and Estate, as well as in Matters of Conscience, should neglect falling in with the first fair Opportunity that offers for their Deliverance; therefore I formerly urg'd, that the Confederate Armies and Fleets, whenever they enter *France*, should have Declarations in Readiness to publish among the People, in order to let them see how fair an Opportunity they now have to rid themselves of that tyrannical and oppressive Mode of Government, which has prey'd so long upon their Estates, their Lives, and their Consciences, by taking Arms to join the Confederates, and adhering to them, 'till such Time as the Government of *France* be settl'd upon its ancient Foundations of Liberty.

Country-m. Aye, but, Master, there's a Party among us, who you know will oppose such Methods as those, as well as they do every Thing that tends to create an Union and good Understanding among the Protestant Subjects at Home, and to remove those Heart-burnings, that may some Time or other prove fatal to us. You may be sure such Men will be against stirring up the Subjects of the *French* King to what they call Rebellion.

Obs. I know that well enough, *Roger*; but have heard of a Time, when the Gentlemen of that Kidney were very zealous for Descents upon *Holland*, and attempted it several Times, to favour a Rebellion against the States, rais'd by one *Heemskerk*, who had revolted with some Ships under his Command. I make no Doubt, *Roger*, but those Gentlemen would have been as zealous still for a Descent in *Holland*, and Declarations to raise a Rebellion there, as they call it, as they are now averse to the like Methods against *France*: And I have the more Reason to think so, *Roger*, because when the *Dutch* had form'd a Correspondence in some of the *French* maritime Provinces, and sent a Squadron to incourage their taking Arms, the Design was betray'd by some of our gracious Courtiers; for which the Chevalier *de Rohan*, and some others, were executed in *France*.

Country-m. Those are unlucky Stories, Master; may the Guilty among us, if there be any such, make a proper Application. We all know well enough, that the *French* and *Jacobites* entertain no such Scruples at assassinating our Princes, of raising Rebellions among us: They can give Commissions by wholesale for Troops of nonjurant Parsons, to hallow Popish and *Jacobite* Leagues against the Government: Therefore I think, Master, we have no Reason to be so tender to the *French* in that Matter; but I am still told, that they have lost all Taste of Liberty, and that tho' it were in their Offer, they will not embrace it.

Obs. You shall as soon perswade me, *Roger*, that a Dog tyd up in order to be hang'd, will not bite the Hand that does it, if he can reach it, or will not run away as soon as he is let loose. We may assure our Selves, *Roger*, that Slavery agrees very ill with the fiery Temper of that Nation. We know from History, how they have formerly curb'd their tyrannical Princes, as well as we did ours. Despotick Power never arriv'd to an uncontroulable Height there, till this present Reign, which, if some of the chief of the *French* Nation had got their Will, the World had never been troubl'd with; and by the Accounts that came in no longer ago than Yesterday, which confirm the Insurrection of the *Cevennes*, and say, that many Malecontents from *France* have join'd the Protestants in the

the Vallies of *Lucern*, we have Reaſon to think, that the Tide of Slavery, which has run ſo ſtrong there for many Years, begins now to turn; and that Tyranny may have its Overthrow, as well as it roſe to its greateſt Height there in this Reign.

Country-m. Why truly, Maſter, I am much of your Mind; and do really believe, that if Circumſtances would once allow the Confederates to make a right Uſe of their Fleets, as well as of their Land Armies, and that we could make a Deſcent upon their Country from the Channel, we ſhould hear of Malcontents in *Picardy*, *Normandy*, *Brittanny*, and *Poitou*, as well as in the *Cevennes* and *Vivarois*.

Obſ. You ſay very well, *Roger*. I formerly told you what *La Fontain* wrote of the Diſpoſition of the new Converts in *Poitou*, had they been ſure of Incouragement from *England*, and that our Expedition againſt *Breſt*, *&c.* was well enough concerted, though betray'd before it could be executed: But when once our Traytors and Plotters come to be more duly rewarded, and the falſe Steps of former Male-Adminiſtrations fully rectify'd and avoided, we may hope for better Succeſs; but we muſt wait with Patience, make Uſe of proper Means, and place our chief Dependance on God for a Bleſſing upon them.

Country-m. I am of Opinion, Maſter, that as Providence has plac'd us in an Iſland, and that without a due Care to promote our Navigation, we can neither be able to retrieve our decay'd Trade, nor to provide ſufficiently for our own Defence, and to annoy our Enemy, that our Efforts by Land ſhould not ſupercede our Endeavours by Sea. Bleſſed be God, that our large and happy Soil, and our Rivers and Seas, afford us ſufficient Materials for Conſumption at Home, and advancing our Trade Abroad. Were thoſe Opportunities duly improv'd, Maſter, we need not want Employment for all the idle Hands we have at Home, and for the 10000 *Palatines* that are come to us from Abroad.

Obſ. That's very plain, *Roger*: Had our Money'd Men but as large a Share of a publick Spirit, as they have of Caſh, the *Palatines* and our own Poor might all have been employ'd ere now. Our Neighbours the *Dutch* never want Money on ſuch Occaſions; they employ their Poor in draining Marſhes, levelling Downs, gaining Ground out of the Sea, cutting Canals, improving Manufactures and Fiſhery of all ſorts: Whereas we have more Fiſh in our Seas and Rivers than all our Hands can take and cure, and more Millions of Acres of improvable Land in our own Dominions at Home and in the *Weſt Indies*, than we are capable to cultivate, and yet, by woeful Neglect and Narrowneſs of Soul, we ſuffer our Selves to be eat up by Multitudes of Poor, that might be uſefully employ'd: But there are ſeveral Things to be done, as neceſſary Preliminaries, before thoſe Abuſes can be redreſs'd; of which we ſhall take an Opportunity to talk, God willing, in a very little Time, *Roger*. In the mean While let all honeſt *Britains* pray, that God would bleſs her Majeſty's Perſon and Adminiſtration, give Succeſs to the Confederate Arms by Sea and Land, reform our national Sins, and prevent national Judgments.

Advertiſements.

Juſt publiſh'd,

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Boſton in New-England,
Mar. 25. 1709. Cotton Mather.

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